



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 17, 2002

S. 1946

Old Spanish Trail Recognition Act of 2002

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources
on September 12, 2002*

S. 1946 would establish the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. The 3,500-mile trail would comprise four major routes and extend from New Mexico to California.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service (NPS) would spend about \$400,000 over the next two or three years to complete a comprehensive management plan for the new trail. In addition, we estimate that the NPS would spend about \$500,000 annually to manage the trail beginning in 2003 or 2004. Thus, initial costs would total about \$2 million over the next four to five years.

The costs of subsequent trail development, which could occur over many years, are uncertain and cannot be determined until a management plan has been completed. Such costs include capital expenditures for visitor facilities as well as other one-time expenses for trail marking, exhibits, and interpretive materials. They vary significantly from trail to trail, depending on such factors as the length of the trail, federal ownership of land, and contributions by nonfederal entities such as nonprofit organizations and state agencies. The costs of developing the historic trail could range from under \$1 million (for signs and minimal facilities such as trailhead parking and wayside exhibits) to over \$20 million (for multiple visitor centers and multimedia interpretive programs).

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On June 28, 2002, CBO submitted a cost estimate for S. 1946 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 5, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the estimated costs.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.